(b) to (d) Question do not arise.

Administrative Reforms

†147. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have prepared a plan for taking action to bring in comprehensive improvement in the administrative structure of the country;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) the outline for future time bound programme for taking action in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) Government is planning to set up an Administrative Reforms Commission to prepare a detailed road map for revamping the public administration system.

Performance-related reward and punishment

148. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out a performance-related reward and punishment system for its bureaucratic cadre to instill a sense of accountability and transparency in governance;

(b) whether there is any provision currently in force for the Central Government dispensing with the services of a bureaucrat appointed through UPSC selection process for any administrative lapse or incompetence or financial misdemeanour; and

(c) if so, the number of times this power has been invoked by the Central during the past decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) Government keeps the performance of its officers and staff under constant review. Reward in terms of recognition of merit in annual assessment, is provided for under rules.

(b) In terms of FR 56(j), the appropriate authority has absolute right to retire a Government servant in public interest after he has attained the age of 50/55 years. Penalties ranging from 'censure' to 'dismissal from service' can be imposed on a Government servant for good and sufficient reasons, according to the gravity of the charges proved against him, which can include the charges of administrative lapse, incompetence, financial misdemeanours etc. The UPSC is required to be consulted in cases where the President is the disciplinary authority, before imposing such penalty.

(c) Information relating to penalties imposed on Government servant by various disciplinary authorities is not centrally monitored/available.

Reduction in retirement age

149. SHRI DATTAMEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had sent a proposal to the Law Ministry for its opinion on the question of lowering the retirement age of Central Government employees to 58 years, which was increased to 60 in 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Law Ministry has given its opinion on this proposal agreeing to restore the retirement age to 58 in line with the Expenditure Commission's recommendations that the Government cut its expenditure on salaries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the final decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):